

WILLMAR CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES BUILDING
WILLMAR, MINNESOTA

December 1, 1999
7:04 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Willmar City Council was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Pro Tempore Verna Kelly. Members present on a roll call were Mayor Pro Tempore Kelly, Council Members Denis Anderson, Ron Christianson, Bruce DeBlieck, Douglas Reese, Nancy Houlahan, Jim Dokken, and Rick Fagerlie; Present 8, Absent 1 - Mayor Lester Heitke was excused from the meeting.

Also present were City Administrator Michael Schmit, City Attorney Richard Ronning, Public Works Director Mel Odens, Finance Director Steven Okins, Planning and Development Services Director Bruce Peterson, Police Chief Jim Kulset, and City Clerk Kevin Halliday.

Council Member Reese offered a motion adopting the Consent Agenda, which included the following: City Council Minutes of November 17, Municipal Utilities Commission Minutes of November 22, Pioneerland Library Board Minutes of September 16, and Human Rights Commission Minutes of September 21, 1999; and Mayoral reappointment of Neil Schendal to the Park and Leisure Services Board. Council Member Christianson seconded the motion, which carried.

At 7:05 p.m. Mayor Pro Tempore Kelly opened the hearing on an Ordinance to Rezone Certain Lands. Planning and Development Services Director Peterson presented details of the proposal from West Central Steel to rezone a tract of land north of the Floor to Ceiling Store from R-2 to I-2, and noted the Planning Commission has recommended the site be rezoned as requested. Jeff Pattison, President of West Central Steel, informed the Council that the site will be developed for future offices and parking. Upon hearing all those who wished to be heard, Mayor Pro Tempore Kelly closed the hearing at 7:07 p.m.

Council Member Reese offered a motion to adopt, assign a number, and order final publication of the Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1060 to Rezone Certain Property. Council Member DeBlieck seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

The Finance Committee Report of November 22, 1999, was presented to the Council by Mayor Pro Tempore Kelly. There were four items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 Housing and Redevelopment Authority Executive Director Dorothy Gaffaney appeared before the Committee to present a summary of HRA activities and programs and the proposed fiscal year 1999 - 2000 budget. Ms. Gaffaney informed the Committee that the HRA year 2000 levy request has been set at \$65,314. The HRA levy is scheduled for final consideration and approval at the December 15, 1999, City Council meeting. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 2 Rice Hospital CEO Lawrence Massa and Leroy Meyering appeared before the Committee to present information regarding the Year 2000 budget for Rice Memorial Hospital. The proposed budget will yield a 3.5 percent total margin, or gain of \$1.9 million, and includes an overall rate increase of 8 percent.

Mr. Massa reviewed inpatient/outpatient volume, physician recruitment, equipment replacement, the Balanced Budget Act and Medicare reimbursement, various programs, and fulltime employee salaries and benefits. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 3 Mayor Heitke presented introductory remarks and reviewed the 2000 Proposed Budget. Mayor Heitke briefly reviewed the Budget process, total revenues and expenditures, and stressed the importance of Local Government Aid. The Mayor informed the Council that the average debt in Minnesota is \$35 per

capita and noted the citizens of Willmar have \$0.00 general obligation debt. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 4 The Committee reviewed the various departmental budgets and the following programs were discussed in detail:

- A. Inspectional Services revenue and expenses cost comparison. Staff will provide information.
- B. Police Department. Transfer \$4,600 for personal computer and notebook computer from Police Department to Data Processing; and \$1,000 for color printer from Fire Department to Data Processing.
- C. Showmobile. Discussed replacing unit with new or used. Staff was directed to bring back more information to Committee.
- D. Public Works Storm Water Retention. The Committee discussed phasing in storm water improvements (ditches, ponds), Grass Lake Project, storm water utilities, and grants.
- E. WEAC Parking Lot. Under the Mayor's proposal, the City and School would split the cost 50/50.
- F. Civic Center. Floor and roof replacement.
- G. Library. Custodial services and additional hours of operation. Following considerable discussion, the Committee was recommending to the Council to increase Library funding by \$25,000 for custodial services. The Committee further recommended to the Council to expand the Library hours of services 9 hours per week at an annual cost of approximately \$23,000, which resulted in a two yes and two no vote. This matter will go before the Council with no recommendation from Committee.
- H. Police Department Budget. Following discussion of the Fire Chief/Marshal position, the Committee was recommending to the Council that \$10,000 be moved from Police Department Personal Services to Fire Department Personal Services
- I. Wastewater Treatment Plant Budget. Chairman Kelly informed the Committee there was a \$700,000 budget deficit. The Committee discussed an increase in rates, which would require a hearing. City Administrator Schmit recommended waiting until the WTP Facilities Plan was presented to the Public Works/Safety Committee, noting there will be a number of options.

The items listed above were for information only.

The Finance Committee Report of November 22, 1999, was approved as presented and ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office upon motion by Mayor Pro Tempore Kelly, seconded by Council Member Anderson, and carried.

The Public Works/Safety Committee Report was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member Reese. There were seven items for Council consideration.

Item No. 1 Becky Mortensen addressed the Committee on safety issues. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 2 The Committee reviewed a revised Safety Policy for the City of Willmar. The previous policy was adopted in 1986 and OSHA regulations require review of the current policy. The Committee was recommending to the Council adoption the revised Safety Policy as submitted. Council Member Anderson questioned the City's ergonomics policy and suggested it be added to the Safety Policy. Council Member Reese moved to approve the revised Safety Policy with Council Member Fagerlie seconded the motion, which carried.

Item No. 3 Staff recommended to the Committee acceptance and final payment to Keith Olson Electric of New London for Project No. 9903. The project was completed and all the lights were energized within the required timeframe. The Committee was recommending to the Council to accept the project and authorize final payment. Resolution No. 1 was introduced by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member Christianson, read by Mayor Pro Tempore Kelly, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 1

ACCEPTING PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING FINAL PAYMENT

PROJECT NUMBER: 9903
IMPROVEMENT: Street Lighting

CONTRACTOR:	Keith Olson Electric.
DATE OF CONTRACT:	July 8, 1999
BEGIN WORK:	August 13, 1999
COMPLETE WORK:	November 12, 1999
APPROVE, CITY ENGINEER:	November 19, 1999

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar, Minnesota, that:

1. The said Project No. 9903 be herewith approved and accepted by the City of Willmar.
2. The following summary and final payment be approved:

ORIGINAL CONTRACT AMOUNT:	\$36,630.00
Change Orders (None)	\$0.00
FINAL NET CONTRACT AMOUNT, PROPOSED:	\$36,630.00
ACTUAL FINAL CONTRACT AMOUNT AS CONSTRUCTED:	\$35,630.10
Less Previous Payments (Estimate Nos. 1 & 2)	\$33,891.63
FINAL PAYMENT DUE CONTRACTOR:	\$1,738.47

Dated this 1st day of December, 1999.

/s/ Verna Kelly
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: CITY CLERK

Item No. 4 The Committee reviewed plans and specifications for Project No. 9905, 15th Street and 19th Avenue Southwest traffic signals, and an agreement to split the project costs between the City and County. The Committee was recommending to the Council to approve plans and specifications and authorize advertisement of bids to be opened on January 3, 2000. Resolution No. 2 was introduced by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member Fagerlie, read by Mayor Pro Tempore Kelly, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

WHEREAS the City Engineer of the City of Willmar has presented to the City Council plans and specifications for the 1999 Street Lighting Improvements (Project No. 9903) for the City of Willmar;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar that: Final plans and specifications are hereby approved, and publication of the advertisement for bids is herewith authorized. Bids will be publicly opened and read at 1:30 p.m. on the 14th day of June, 1999, at the City Office Building, 333 Southwest Sixth Street, Willmar, Minnesota.

Dated this 1st day of December, 1999.

/s/ Verna Kelly
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: CITY CLERK

Item No. 5 The Committee reviewed an agreement with MnDOT. Previous

Council action passed a resolution agreeing to finance the City's portion, and the agreement provides for payment to MnDOT for costs incurred. The Committee was recommending to the Council to approve the agreement. Resolution No. 3 was introduced by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member Anderson, read by Mayor Pro Tempore Kelly, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 8, Noes 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 3

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Willmar enter into Mn/DOT Agreement No. 79699 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation for the following purposes:

To provide for payment by the City to the State of the City's share of the costs of the bituminous surfacing and city utility construction and other associated construction to be performed upon, along and adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 12 from 7th Street West to 127 feet west of Dolson Street within the corporate City limits under State Project No. 3403-59.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and the City Administrator are authorized to execute the Agreement.

Dated this 1st day of December, 1999.

/s/ Verna Kelly
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: CITY CLERK

Item No. 6 The Committee discussed the Airport Commission meeting whereby Airport management was evaluated. This matter was for information only.

Item No. 7 The Committee briefly discussed recent gang activity. This matter was for information only.

The Public Works/Safety Committee Report of November 23, 1999, was approved as presented and ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office upon motion by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member Christianson, and carried.

The Council considered a proposal to consolidate the City's Parks and Leisure Services Department with the School District's Community Education Department. Council Member Reese offered a motion to approve of consolidation and direct staff to negotiate with School Administration officials the specific details of an agreement. The agreement will be brought back to the City Council and School Board for approval. A lengthy discussion followed. Council Members supporting the consolidation identified the benefits of one-stop shopping, eliminating the duplication of services, looking for ways to help taxpayers, and taking advantage of the retirement of top level management positions within both organizations. Council Members opposed to the consolidation talked about deferring organizational goals, missions and philosophies, maintain traditional high quality services, and made the observation that because things were going well, it was not necessary to change or "fix" anything. Numerous seniors expressed concerns relative to the Senior Center, and Park Board Members voiced concerns over park development and maintenance and some program issues. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 5, Noes 3 - Council Member Christianson, DeBlieck, and Dokken voted "No."

Announcements for Council Committee meeting dates were as follows: Labor Relations and Finance, December 6; Public Works/Safety, December 7; and Community Development, December 9, 1999.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. upon motion by Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member DeBlieck, and carried.

Attest:

MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL